

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 DHA-02
/062 W

-----002337 201829Z /47

P R 201550Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3504
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
US MISSION GENEVA 034
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0667

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP TO THE CARIBBEAN

REF: STATE 166477

1. THIS MESSAGE GIVES EMBASSY PARAMARIBO'S GENERAL
THOUGHTS ON THE VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG HERE. IF IT
IGNORES, REPEATS OR CONFLICTS WITH ANY PREVIOUS MESSAGE
FROM WASHINGTON WE APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE, BUT REFTTEL IS
THE ONLY MESSAGE WE HAVE HAD FROM DEPARTMENT ON THE
SUBJECT.

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2. THIS TRIP WILL BE LOOKED AT IN SURINAM AS AN INITIATIVE
TOWARDS THE CARIBBEAN AREA, EXPRESSING HEIGHTENED INTEREST
IN THESE COUNTRIES, THEIR PROBLEMS, THEIR POSITION IN THE
WORLD, AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.
AMBASSADOR YOUNG WILL, AND OUGHT TO, BE SEEN AS A CLOSE
POLITICAL ASSOCIATE OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND US AMBASSADOR
TO THE UN. NATURALLY, AMB YOUNG'S ACTIVITIES IN REGARD

TO AFRICA, PARTICULARLY SOUTHERN AFRICA, HAVE ATTRACTED ATTENTION HERE AND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN EVENTS IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD, BUT WE THINK IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO ALLOW THIS VISIT TO BECOME "A REPORT TO THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ON WHAT THE US IS DOING IN AFRICA" RATHER THAN "A DIALOGUE WITH THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS AND WHAT THE US CAN DO TO HELP." IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT USIA CIRCULARS 19759 AND 19767 PROMISE NEWS CLIPS AND FILMS OF AMB YOUNG IN NIGERIA; WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME CLIPS AND FILMS OF AMB YOUNG AT THE WHITE HOUSE, AT THE UN, AT GENEVA, ETC. TO BALANCE THESE. BEST OF ALL, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE, ON A TOP PRIORITY BASIS, A FIFTEEN MINUTE VIDEOTAPE INTERVIEW WITH AMB YOUNG ON HIS PROJECTED TRIP TO THE CARIBBEAN, WHAT HE HOPES TO LEARN, AND HOW THIS WILL ASSIST THE US IN FORMULATING ITS POLICY TOWARDS THIS AREA. BROADCAST OF SUCH A TV PROGRAM SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE AMB YOUNG'S ARRIVAL WOULD HEIGHTEN INTEREST MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN THINK OF, AND WOULD PROVIDE A BACKDROP AGAINST WHICH OFFICIAL AND PRESS ATTENTION HERE COULD BE FOCUSED.

3. SURINAM DOES NOT HAVE ANY IMPORTANT BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH THE US AND ITS MAIN INTEREST WILL BE TO LEARN HOW THE US LOOKS AT THE CARIBBEAN AS A WHOLE AND HOW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA WILL AFFECT SURINAM. THEY WILL
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WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE US THINKS ABOUT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN NEARBY COUNTRIES AND WHAT WE WILL BE DOING TO ASSIST THEM; HOW THINGS WILL GO WITH THE PANAMA CANAL; WHAT THE IMPACT OF CUBA WILL BE ON THE AREA IN THE FUTURE (SURINAM HAS BEEN MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN THE US IN OPENING UP RELATIONS WITH CUBA, ALTHOUGH IT BUYS AND SELLS THERE); WHAT THE US WILL BE DOING TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD IN NORTH-SOUTH TRADE AND TRANSFER OF ASSETS; AND SUCH QUESTIONS.

4. SURINAM HAS AN ETHNICALLY MIXED POPULATION, OF COURSE, WITH ROUGHLY ONE-THIRD OF AFRICAN OR PARTLY AFRICAN ORIGIN, ONE-THIRD SO-CALLED HINDUSTANIS FROM INDIA, AND ONE-THIRD OTHER WITH JAVANESE BEING THE LARGEST NUMBER IN THE LAST GROUP, SOME CHINESE, A FEW AMERICANS, LEBANESE AND EUROPEANS. THERE ARE NO OVERT RACIAL PROBLEMS AMONG THESE GROUPS, ALTHOUGH THEY STRIVE WITH EACH OTHER FOR POLITICAL ENDS. THERE WILL BE INTEREST AND APPRECIATION FOR AMB YOUNG'S ROLE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE US BUT THIS INTEREST WILL BE LARGELY VICARIOUS AND A MATTER OF CONGRATULATING THE BIG BROTHER TO THE NORTH ON FINALLY COMING TO REALIZE TRUTHS THAT THEY HAVE KNOWN

AND PRACTICED HERE (AT LEAST IN THE VIEW OF SURINAMERS)
FOR SOME TIME. THERE MAY BE MORE INTEREST AND SOME
CONCERN OVER THE QUESTION OF MESHING US PRESSURES ON
SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD
WITH WHAT SOME SURINAMERS CONSIDER CONFLICTING US INTERESTS
IN THE GENERAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE
HEMISPHERE. THE SURINAMERS ARE NOT NECESSARILY SKEPTICAL,
AND THEY WILL RESPOND WELL TO A COGENT REATIONALIZATION OF
THESE POLICIES.

5. THIS VISIT WILL BE THE FIRST OF A SENIOR AMERICAN
OFFICIAL TO SURINAM SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE ALMOST TWO
YEARS AGO, AND WILL COME DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF THE
FIRST PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SINCE INDEPENDENCE. THIS
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WILL BE A TIME OF HEIGHTENED POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND SENSI-
TIVITY, AND THE POSSIBILITY WILL BE THERE FOR THE
ARTICULATION OF AN AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS COUNTRY
AND ITS AREA WHICH WILL REMAIN HIGHLY USEFUL FOR A LONG
TIME AHEAD.
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